

PRIORITY POINTS SYSTEM

The determination of which eligible households receive assistance is accomplished through the Priority Points System. Under this system, applicants are given points based on their incomes based on family size, energy burden, and the presence of vulnerable members in the household. Those applicants with the lowest incomes, highest energy burden, and greatest vulnerability receive the most number of points available.

After the total number of points is determined for each eligible household, the applicants are ranked from the highest number of points to those with the lowest number. Those households with the highest number of points receive priority in assistance and will be served subject to available funds. In addition, the number of points awarded to each household is the determining factor in the benefit level of assistance provided to each household, **except as provided in the State Plan for household which are only subject to the payment of “overages”**.

The following criteria are to be used to calculate each applicant household's total number of points:

Income Based on Family Size (20 points maximum)

% of Federal Poverty Guidelines	Points
0-50%	20 points
51-75%	15 points
76-100%	10 points
101-125%	5 points

Energy Burden (20 points maximum)

% of income used for home energy costs	Points
14% or higher	20 points
9-13%	15 points
4-8%	10 points
3% or less	5 points

Vulnerable Household Members (50 points maximum)

Household with:	Points
Elderly (70+)	15 points
Elderly (60 - 69)	10 points
Disabled	10 points
Children under 6 years of age	10 points
APS Referral	10 points
Households with six (6) or more persons	5 points